

TREASURE

OUR

alaska

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline

33,904

coastal population in 2000

538,332

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding

\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding

\$540,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation

\$325,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship

\$590,000

THE COAST OF ALASKA IS HOME TO TIMBER HARVESTING, OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT, MINING, AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING. THE LONG-TERM PROSPERITY OF THESE COASTAL ACTIVITIES, WHICH REPRESENT MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF ALASKA'S GROSS ECONOMIC PRODUCT, DEPENDS UPON A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN ALASKA IS FEDERALLY OWNED (MOSTLY ALONG THE COAST), AND THE STATE IS ABLE TO INFLUENCE FEDERAL ACTIONS THAT AFFECT ITS COASTAL AREAS THROUGH THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA). THE CZMA PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF ALASKA'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN ALASKA

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

Alaska Coastal Management Program

Approved: 1979

Lead Agencies: Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Coastal Management Program

The Alaska Coastal Management Program provides coastal communities a voice in the state's unified coastal permitting program. Alaska's 35 coastal districts develop plans with enforceable policies that help guide development within the district's coastal zone. Districts receive approximately 40 percent of the federal Coastal Zone Management grant to implement district and special management plans and complete special projects.

The Alaska Coastal Management Program consistency review process provides a single point of entry for federal activities and projects requiring state and federal permits located within the coastal zone. Most consistency reviews are completed within 50 days, saving developers time and money.



The Alaska Coastal Management Program also conducts a dynamic education and outreach program to increase awareness of the importance of coastal management in Alaska. The increasing use information technology improves management and permit review processes.

Alaska's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Conditionally Approved: 1998

Lead Agencies: Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Coastal Management Program

Alaska's Clean Water Actions is a unified effort among Alaska's state resource agencies to protect Alaska's waters. The Alaska Coastal Clean Water Plan is Alaska's response to Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. Section 6217 requires states such as Alaska, with coastal zone management programs, to develop "coastal nonpoint pollution control programs." Alaska's Clean Water Actions will help meet some of the requirements on the conditional approval of the Alaska Coastal Clean Water Plan.

Alaska's National Estuarine Research Reserve

Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Designated: 1999

Lead Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Kachemak Bay Reserve is a 365,000-acre area located south of Anchorage in Homer, on the western coast of the Kenai Peninsula. Kachemak Bay features extensive tidal mudflats, subtidal habitat, and upland forests. It is one of the most productive, diverse, and intensively used estuaries in the state of Alaska. To preserve the lifestyle and economy of the region, the local community pursued the designation of Kachemak Bay as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Understanding and wise use of the bay and its resources has increased through activities at the reserve. The reserve developed The Kachemak Bay Ecological Characterization that provides available biological, physical, and human use information on the Kachemak Bay watershed. The project increases understanding of the ecosystem, improves access to information, assists in *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration efforts, and identifies information needs of researchers, resource managers, local governments, and the public. Data will be published in digital format, allowing users to query and manipulate data. Additionally, a centralized Geographic Information System is being developed for the watershed. The reserve also participates in the system-wide monitoring program by tracking water quality and weather parameters. The reserve plans to correlate wave height and tide data with water quality and weather data to assess the effects of natural events in the bay.

The education program at Kachemak Bay continues to grow and provide learning opportunities for a number of audiences locally and regionally. The reserve is participating in the coastal training program and will provide coastal decisionmakers with the knowledge and skills to make sound decisions about environmental resource issues.

The reserve is constructing a joint headquarters facility in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003. This Center will provide numerous opportunities for research, education, and stewardship programming and collaborations as well as provide a tremendous experience for visitors.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The Alaska Coastal Management Program initiated workshops to enhance communications among the state and federal agencies involved in coastal resource management in Alaska. These Coastal Partnerships Workshops helped strengthen relationships among agencies involved in project review throughout northern and western Alaska. Two workshops were held in rural districts to facilitate the review of federal projects for consistency with the coastal program. The Coastal Institute of Alaska was also created to provide training for new coastal district coordinators throughout the state.